

Amdt. Dated Dec 5, 2005

Reply of Office action of Aug. 8, 2005

**Amendments to the Specification:**

**Please modify paragraph [0006] as follows:**

Delete the first sentence

**Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:**

[0013] As used in this invention, the term "boron-containing fungicide" includes calcium borate, zinc borate, and boric acid. The calcium borate which can be used in the method of this invention may be any of the borate compounds containing calcium, boron, and oxygen. ~~The calcium borates include the calcium polytriborates, with a  $\text{CaO}:\text{B}_{\text{sub}2}\text{O}_{\text{sub}3}$  ratio of 2:3 and the calcium hexaborates with a  $\text{CaO}:\text{B}_{\text{sub}2}\text{O}_{\text{sub}3}$  ratio of 1:3. Calcium hexaborates include nobleite and gowerite. Optionally, calcium-sodium borates and calcium-magnesium borates may be used; examples include ulexite, probertite and hydroboracite. This includes calcium borates that may be synthetically produced or naturally occurring borates including colemanite, ulexite, nobelite, hydroboracite, and gowerite.~~

**Please delete paragraph [0014]**

**Please renumber paragraph [0015] as [0014] amended as follows:**

[0015] [0014] The exact particle size of the boron-containing fungicide is ~~not critical,~~  
~~but the material~~ must be of a size that can be dispersed uniformly throughout the

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lignocellulosic thermoplastic composite. Generally a mean particle size as large as ~~150~~  
100 microns and as small as ~~1 micron~~ 3 microns can be used. For best results the mean  
particle size should be in the range of ~~40~~ 20 microns to 5 microns.

**Please renumber paragraph [0016] as [0015] amended as follows:**

~~[0016]~~ [0015] The amount of boron-containing fungicide incorporated into the  
lignocellulosic thermoplastic composite will depend on the lignocellulosic content, the  
longevity desired and the anticipated exposure to moisture. In general, when resistance  
to decay caused by fungus is required, a range of about 0.2 to ~~5~~ 4 percent by weight of  
the fungicide is required. The preferred amount is about 0.3 to 2 percent. ~~For~~  
~~lignocellulosic loadings less than 60 percent and about 2 to 4 percent for lignocellulosic~~  
~~loadings greater than 60 percent.~~

**Please renumber paragraph [0017] as [0016] amended as follows:**

~~0017]~~ [0016] When resistance to visual impairment to the surface caused by mold is  
required, the amount will be in the range of about ~~2~~ 1.5 to ~~12~~ 10 percent. The preferred  
amount is about 3 to 5 percent.